



HELPER & BAKER

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THE

SHADOW™



SEVEN DEADLY FINNS • Part 3

PUBLISHERIAL JENETTE KAHN

It's been a long time since I was a visible presence in these pages. But if, like most readers, you read every caption, every word of dialogue, and every block of type in our comic books, then you've seen my name listed over and over again as president and publisher of DC Comics.

Now that I've been here for so many years, I'm no longer as fixated about page-turning the exact hour and day that I come to DC. But it has been the longest relationship of my life, longer now, even, than grade school.

And certainly DC has been one of the most satisfying relationships of my life. I came to the company in my twenties after work experiences that suited me in good stead when I took on the challenges of running a comic book company that clearly had the best characters in the world but was lagging in sales. Now, of course, we not only have the best characters but the best comic books as well, with sales to match.

I was a child of the Fifties and participated solely in that culture. The poles of pleasure in my early years growing up in the college town of State College, Pennsylvania, were miniature golf on the one hand, pinball on the other, and comic books right in the center. State College embodied all the small town virtues associated with middle America at a grade, simpler time in this country. In many ways it was not unlike Clark Kent's hometown of Smallville. My older brother, St., was the District Boomer of my young life, sharing his adventures with me and keeping the trail for me to follow close behind.

The first comic I read—whether it was lying on our stomachs on the living room floor, knees up in the back seat of the Chevy, or locked, for what my parents felt was an unreasonable amount of time, in the bathroom—were boy comics. Batman, as you may know from things I've said before, was my absolute favorite. Beyond that, I couldn't see why anyone would read *Ritchie Rich* when there was *Dickie Scroggy*. And although the word "punk" had not been reinvented and "new wave" was a phrase I'd not yet heard, I knew that Jughead was ahead of his time and that Little Lake was off the wall.

It never occurred to me then that people, real people, actually produced these two four color volumes that gave me so much pleasure. That there were strange and wondrous beings called editors, writers, pencillers, inkers, letterers, printers was a fact I learned only when I came to DC.

When I was twelve my family moved to Washington. At seventeen, I left for Cambridge, Massachusetts and Harvard. Some I had that fine-boned college disease, monoclemania, and was sent home to recuperate. My neighbor up the street was at that time seriously into Marvel comics. He brought me hundreds, literally hundreds, of Marvels all in order, beginning with the first issues of *Penthouse*, *Four*, *Black* and *Spider-Man*. I read them, of course. After all, I had none, what better excuse! But they never had the magic for me that the DC Comics did.

I always knew I was at the right company working, if you can call it that, in a medium and with characters I have loved since childhood. Every once in a while Paul Levitz or Dick Giordano will amble into my office and say "I wonder what it's like to have a real job!"

At Harvard I was an art history major. There I learned to know the difference between Frank Stella and Joseph Stella and to honor the contribution of each. When I got to DC, I was able to apply these skills to the passion to the multiple gifts of comic book artists and writers: Jack Kirby, Joe Robert, Neal Adams, Bernie Wrightson, Barry Smith, John Buscema, Danny O'Neil, Roy Thomas, Len Wein, Steve Gerber—these were the talents in the field when I came to DC.

My countless hours of pleasure reading comic books combined with my studies in art history to give me a more adult appreciation of our industry. I saw that in addition to being a highly personal and involving entertainment medium, comics were also a uniquely American and constantly evolving art form.

I didn't, as I indicated earlier, go straight from college to comics as art. There were intervening years in which I had a fellowship at the Museum of Modern Art, consumed of and published these critically acclaimed children's magazines, and learned the rudiments of running a thriving creative business. Because my magazines pioneered new territory and one of them, *Dynasty*, became the most successful children's magazine in history, I was considered by many people to be an expert in publishing for young people. Bill Serrall, the Chairman of *Western Publishing*, shared that view and hired me to be publisher of DC.

Of course, I am now president as well. But I've always kept the title publisher to affirm publicly as well as privately my allegiance to the heart of our business, the comic books themselves. As president, I oversee other areas as well—most especially product licensing, and the sale of our properties to movies and television. These are areas which I'm more interested in, too, and I will talk about them in the weeks to come. Like me, I know your first priority is the comics. But you also want to know, as I do, what's happening with the upcoming Batman picture or the *Watchmen* movie we just placed with 20th Century Fox.

Because I have the overview of the company, I wanted to share it with you by writing this regular letter in our books. If you have any questions you'd like answered, please drop me a line.

Jenette Kahn

PRESIDENT & PUBLISHER, DC COMICS

DC LIST THIS WEEK

SUPERMAN: THE EARTH STEALERS

The special Prestige Format story by John Byrne, Curt Swan and Jerry Ordway as the Man of Steel is Earth's best hope against the Earth stealers! ▶★

LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES 48

A conspiracy is hatched... writes the Legion. Part one of five! ▶◆

STAR TREK 50

An extra-length story celebrates the end of a mission and a wedding. ●

FOREVER PEOPLE 4 (of 6)

Mars Moonrider falls under the power of The Dark... and Genny's pivotal destiny is revealed. ▶■

HELLBLAZER 5

The Resurrection Crusade continues as a lost Viet Nam patrol returns and brings the war home. ▶■▲

MARTIAN MANHUNTER 1 (of 4)

Beginning a four-part mini-series revealing, for the first time, all the truths about J'onn J'onzz. ▶■

SECRET ORIGINS 26

Black Lightning sets up a new home but pauses for a look back while we also learn all about Miss America! ●

SILVERBLADE 9

Everything you know is wrong. What's really going on? Who are Jonathan Lord and company really about? ▶■

YOUNG ALL-STAR 12

"Iron" Munro's origin is finally revealed and the shocking truth about Hugo Osborn is learned. ▶■

BLUE BEETLE 24

The final issue brings everything tumbling down including the Bag and Kord, Inc. ●

GREEN ARROW 4

A deadly lab experiment is wanted by the Russians and only Green Arrow stands in their way! ▶■▲

BATMAN 415

Ten Nights of the Beast Part Three pits Batman against the Beast—and the Beast wins! ●

SUPERMAN 17

Silver Banshee returns complicating Superman's efforts to get in touch with Wonder Woman. ●

LEGEND

- Standard Format
- ★ Prestige Format
- ◆ New Format
- Graphic Novel
- ◆ Deluxe Format
- ⊞ Collected Edition
- ◆ Suggested for Mature Readers
- ▶ Direct Sales Only

ATLANTIC CITY.

JUST MY LUCK.
MENTON'S
PLAYIN'
THE ADDRESS
T'NIGHT...

EVER SINCE
THE KING DIED,
WAYNE'S
THE ONLY ONE
WE OBT
LEFT

AGE!...
WHAT THE HELL
WE GET FINISHED
SHINY. WAYNE
I'LL MAKE IT
FOR ONE & HIS
ENCORES.

AND SO, LADIES
AND GENTLEMEN--
WITHOUT FURTHER ADD,
I SHALL ONCE AGAIN
ATTEMPT TO SWAY MY
LOVELY ASSISTANT--
IN HALF!

THERE'S
NO
BOY!

CRANSTON
international
CASINO HOTEL

...AND ME
I GOTTA
APPEAR...

...THAT, OR
I'LL CATCH
CALLED
LATE SHOW
AT
REBIRTH.

ANYWAY,
BUSINESS
BEFORE
PLEASURE,
I SAY...

IT'S QUITE SIMPLE:
DEFINITE YOU SEE--
CUTTING THROUGH-ROBBY
CORPORATE AND ALL--
BUT I-I WARR-
AHOY! YOU'LL ALL
APPRECIATE
MY EFFORTS TO--

HI,
MARTY
LOOKIN' GOOD.

YOU
TOO, LOU...
RIGHT ON TIME,
AS ALWAYS
READY TO WORK?

YUP
HOW'S
THE
SHOW?

WHAT--
SOME
SENILE COOT
CUTTIN'
A SCRABBY
OLD HAG
IN HALF?

--ATTEND--

THAT AIN'T
A SHOW--

--THERE'S
ENTHUSIASM--

ANDY...?

ANDY...?

GOOD
EVENING,
GENTLEMEN...

...MADAM...

THE SHADOW

THE SEVENTEENTH EPILOGUE PART 1

FOOL'S PARADE

BROUGHT TO YOU UNDER DURESS BY

ANDREW HELFER
WRITER

KYLE BAKER
ARTIST

BOB LAPPAN
LETTERER

TEMA ZILINSKI
COLORIST

MIKE CARLIN
COVER

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6-5726

HMM... I'D ALWAYS BELIEVED THIS HOTEL'S PREVIOUS OWNER WAS A TRUE PROBABAND... A STEEL-REINFORCED DECK CHAIR SEEMED A BIT AWACK...

...BUT IT APPEARS HE MIGHT HAVE HAD HIS REASONING AFTER ALL...



STILL... JOHNNIE IS GOING TO HAVE TO PAY FOR THE DAMAGES...

PERHAPS THAT OBSESSION SHOULD FALL UPON THE SHOOPER'S SHOULDERS, HMM...?

JUST STAND BACK, OR I'LL--!



HEY-- I KNOW YOU-- YOU'RE CRANSTON!

DUNNO WHAT YOU'RE DOIN' HERE AT TWO IN THE A.M.-- BUT YOU PICKED THE WRONG NIGHT TO WORK LATE, MISTER!

YOU SEEM OUR GAGES--AND EVEN THOUGH I'M ONLY MAKIN' BURGERS' WAGES, IT'LL BE A PLEASURE TO GET A BIG BUCK TACKLE LIKE YOU--



JEEZ, MARTY-- TAKE IT EASY--

YEAH-- YOU DON'T HAVE TO KILL HIM--

THEY'RE BRIGHT, MARTY-- DEAD, I'M USELESS-- TO YOU, OR ANYONE--

-- BUT ALIVE, I HAVE SO MUCH TO OFFER...



THIS JUNK, FOR EXAMPLE, IT'S PRICELESS, THEY TELL ME

LOOK AT IT IT'S QUITE BEAUTIFUL-- SEE HOW IT REFLECTS EVEN THE DIMMEST LIGHT, NOW IT SEEMS TO GLOW

LOOK AT IT

ALL OF YOU.



IT'S A BEAUTIFUL NIGHT, MARTY

WHY DON'T YOU STEP OUTSIDE-- GET SOME AIR.



NOW THEN, WHAT BARGAIN YOU TWO HERE? TELL ME... PLEASE

ARTIMUS FUNK-- SENT US-- TO FIND PRIVATE PAPERS-- TO INCORPORATE YOU--

HE WANTS YOUR HOTEL-- WANTS TO CONTROL THE BOARDWALK...



I SEE-- WELL, I'M AFRAID I CAN'T DELUDE HIM.

HOWEVER, TO SHOW HIM THESE ARE NO HAND FEELINGS, YOU'LL PRESENT HIM WITH THIS SMALL GIFT FROM ME

WHAT--?



NOTHING TO BE
ALARMED ABOUT.
IT'S SIMPLY
A BOX OF
CHOCOLATES.

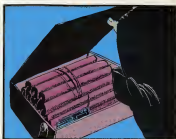
SEE FOR
YOURSELF.



YEAH, GEE,
YOU'RE A HECKLA
GOOD SPORT,
MISTER
CRANSTON.

IT'S
NOTHING,
REALLY.

NOW,
HURRY ALONG
AND *DELIVER* THEM.
BEFORE THEY *AWAY*.
I'LL SHOW YOU
THE WAY
OUT--



RIGHT
THIS WAY--
AND HAVE A
PLEASANT
EVENING--

MASTER--
YOU KNOW
THAT
TELLOW--?

PRETTY
RUDE. IF YOU
ASK ME, I
WISHED OUT
ON MY BIG
FINALE--

--SAID
A COUPLE OF
NASTY THINGS
ABOUT
DENSE... SWEET
MARRIED,
TOO!



AH, DEAR, SWEET
MARGO. SHOW
BUSINESS ISN'T ALL
IT'S CRACKED UP
TO BE, EH?

I PREFER IT TO SOME
OTHER TYPES OF WORK,
"LAWYER." AT LEAST HERE,
WE *AREN'T* BEING
ATTACKED BY HOUNDS
OF *CRACKED*
MARRIAGES--

OUR!



THERE'S BEEN
AN ACCIDENT--
A "JUMPER."
HE TELL FIFTY
STORIES--CRASHED
RIGHT INTO THE
JOY
LOUNGE!

PITY
I *RATHER*
LIVED THE
TWO
LOUNGE.

THE PRESS
WILL WANT A
STATEMENT.

TELL THEM THAT
THESE THINGS HAPPEN
WHEN PEOPLE GET IN OVER THEIR
HEADS... THEN OPEN THE BUREAU
AND DROP SOME HUNDRED DOLLAR
COINS IN THEIR POCKETS...



VERY
GOOD,
SIR!

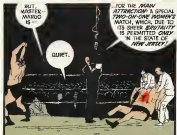
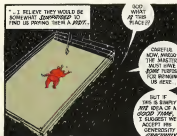
YOU
WERE
SAYING,
MARGO--

HEH...
WE CAN CHAT
LATER, MASTER--
WE'RE HEADING
OVER TO GALLY'S
TO SEE BUDDY
MARRIAGE'S SHOW--
CAN'T TO
JOIN US--?

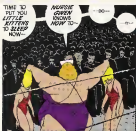
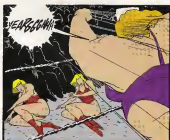
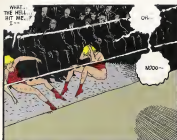


ACTUALLY,
I'M HERE ON
BUSINESS. BUT,
I WAS ABOUT TO
JOIN IF YOU'D
JOIN ME...

I'VE
MANAGED TO
TRACK DOWN
A PAIR OF OUR
MUTUAL
FRIENDS.







The Wanderers

Reborn to solve the final mystery...

Who Killed Them?



DARTALON

Abilities:

Master of personal combat enhanced by biologic weaponry consisting of razor-sharp talons for slashing and piercing, and quills that become dangerous projectiles, regenerated within one earth-standard day. . .

Profile:

Self pity turned to indignation and aggression. Convinced he has been turned into a grotesque monster, he often thinks and behaves as one. . .



PSYCHE

Abilities:

Extrasensory perception of others' moods and emotions. A psychic "vampire" whose will cannot be resisted. . .

Profile:

Dangerously unstable, often reflecting an unpredictable meld of other minds within her reach. Stripped of her powers, her very psyche might well be a blank slate. . .

WANDERERS

Doug Moench
Dave Hoover
Robert Campanella
On Sale in March.







"...LOOKS LIKE WE'RE OFF TO THE BIG APPLE!"

PIECES OF A PUZZLE, KID... PIECES THAT JUST DON'T FIT.

DADNE LOOKS ME UP, HIRES ME TO FIND OUT EVERYTHING I CAN ABOUT A CRIME FAMILY NAMED FINN...

WELL, MISTER MAGNET, ONE OF THE FINN BROTHERS IS UNFORTUNATELY DEAD—SOME GUY SHOT HIM IN HIS ASSHOLE AND THE OTHER NE—

--HEY, YOU THINK WE MIGHT BE WORKING FOR THE GUY THAT KILLED BAWBY?

LIKE, MAYBE WE'RE JUST TRACKING THEM DOWN SO OUR MYSTERY CLIENT CAN BLOW THEM AWAY?



TWENTY-FOUR HOURS LATER, I GOT A HUNDRED LEADS, BUT NOTHING CONCRETE--

SEVEN BROTHERS WITH THEIR FINGERS IN EVERY PIECE OF THE WHOLE RANCO FIE, BUT THEY'RE SMART--NOTHING TRACKS BACK TO THEM.

PROSTITUTION... GAMBLING... TOURS... PROTECTION... DO THESE GUYS DO ANYTHING LEGIT...?



WHAH, THAT ONLY HAPPENING IN THE MOVIES THIS IS REAL LIFE...

AN UNEXPECTED SCENE WHEN MAIL TURNS BY AND HIS DADNE YESTERDAY.



MR. FLISK, A BODILY PITCHER OF THE FINE TORAK REFEY UPTOWN, DISCOVERED A PATTY CASEY DIAMOND UOHN NEEDS HIS PATTY, WHILE INITIALLY OUTRAGED OVER HIS BROTHER TERRY UOHN DISCOVERING THE DIAMOND, FLISK CHANGED HIS MIND, DECIDING:

THIS'S BETTER THAN LOTTERY!!



UHHMM...



THE FBI, HOWEVER, MIGHT NOT AGREE. FEDERAL LAW FORBIDS THE USE OF INCARCERATED SUBORDINATES, NO MATTER HOW WILLINGLY, INSIDE FOOD PRODUCTS.

FIVE FRANK'S PRESIDENT GALEN FINN WOULD UNAVAILABLE FOR COMMENT...



HEY... GALEN FINN, YOU THINK HE'S ANY RELATION TO--

YOU GOT IT, KID? A LEAD WE CAN SINK OUR TEETH INTO--

C'MON-- IT'S TIME TO PAY THE PRESIDENT A VISIT--



...FROM BUS!
WE ARE BORN
AND TO DUST
WE RETURN...



ERRR... YOU
OAVED ME
SIX GRAND...

GONNA
GET THE MAN
WHO
DID THIS...

...CAN'T
BELIEVE IT...
HERE ONE DAY,
GONE
THE NEXT...

MAN,
I COULD
EAT A
HORSE...

...NEVER
ANY GOOD,
BUT
ANY
DESERVES
THIS...

BETTER
YOU
THAN
ME...



I KNOW THIS
WAS GONNA
HAPPEN... BUT
WOULD ANY OF
YOU LISTEN...?

NOOOO

ARTIE... HAVE A
LITTLE RESPECT
AND SHUT
THE HELL UP,
OKAY?



DON'T TELL ME,
GONNA? I SHUT
UP BEFORE, AND
LOOK WHERE
IT GOT US!

ANY NO LOVE LOST
BETWEEN ERRR
AND ANY OF US...
BUT HE WAS A
POOR BANANIT!

NOW
HE'S DEAD--
I'M FURCHED
FULL OF MOORE
AND MAYBE
YOU'RE
NEXT!



PLEASE, ARTIE...
THIS HAS BEEN
DIFFICULT FOR
ALL OF US--

IT'S ONLY GONNA
GET WORSE, ARTIE--
ONCE THE SHADOW
STARTS LEAVING
ON YOU!

I SAW IT
ALL! HE JUST
WALKED BY THAT
GUARD AT THE
DOOR AND
MURDERED
ERRR!

WE'VE ALREADY
DEALT
WITH THE GUARD
IN FACT, YOU
MEN SHOULD BE
POORFINDING UP
WITH HIM AS
WE SPEAK.



DON'T BRUSH IT OFF,
PAT-- I'M DOING
WHAT I GOTTA DO--
WHAT I SHOULD
DO. SHIT
NO.

IT'S
ALL SET UP--
GOT A MEETIN'
IN A FEW HOURS
TO SEAL THE DEAL.
YOU GUYS WITH
ME ON THIS?



I'D LOVE TO, ARTIE--
BUT I'M EXPECTING
A CALL FROM MY
BROTHER--

AND I'VE
GOT TO CHECK
ON PRODUCTION
IN MY NEW
ZAB



GREAT. DO WHATEVER
YOU WANT. EVERYONE
WHO'S AV-- LET'S GET
SOMETHING TO
EAT.

GOOD
IDEA

**AFTER 12
YEARS,
SHE'S BACK
IN HER
OWN STORY.**

DON'T MISS...
***POWER
GIRL***



**Paul Kupperberg
Rick Hoberg
Arne Starr**

**Covers by
Kerry Gammill/
Dick Giordano**



**A FOUR ISSUE MINI-SERIES
SHIPPING IN MARCH.**



LESSON
NUMBER ONE,
KID.
REMAIN
INVISIBLE.

BLEND INTO
THE
WOODWORK.



TOOK SOME DORN
TO BREAK INTO
THIS TRUCK,
BUT IT WAS
WORTH IT.

WE'LL BE SAFE
WITH THESE
DISGUISES.
NO ONE WILL
RECOGNIZE
US.

JUST
REMAIN COOL.
ACT LIKE YOU
BELONG HERE.
ANYONE ASKS,
YOU'RE A
PACKER.

GEE,
MR. MAGNET,
I DON'T THINK
ANYONE
WILL
ASK.



WHY'S
THAT?

IT'S
JUNKY--
THE PLACE
IS CLOFFED!

RIGHT.

THIS IS WHAT
WE CAME FOR.
IF FINN'S GOT
ANY INFORMATION
ON HIS BROTHERS,
CHANCES ARE
WE'LL FIND IT
HERE.



YOU HIT
THE FILE
CABINETS--

I'LL
HANDLE
THE DESK.

SURE
OKAY, BUT
HOW WILL I
KNOW WHAT
TO--
HEY!

SO THAT'S
WHAT HE WAS
PLANNING!
WHAT A NEAT
IDEA!

GET
A LOOK AT
THIS, MR. MAGNET!
THIS IS SOME
CONTEST THEY'RE
PLANNING!
IT--

NOT NOW,
KID--
I'M BUSY--
SOME PRETTY
INTERESTING
PAPERS HE--



THAT'S
IT, JOSEH.

NICE JOB
ONE SHOT.
COOL.

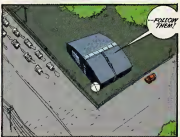
LAST
TIME HE
FALLS ASLEEP
ON THE
JOB.

YEAH,
NOW GRAB
HIS THINGS--
WE GOTTA GET
MOVING.



WHAT
THE
HELL--?





SEE, LOU...
NEW YORK'S A
PRETTY BIG PLACE.
HOW YOU EXPECT
TO FIND
MISTER FINN
THERE...?

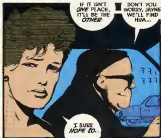


WELL, THERE'S A
COUPLE OF PLACES
TO LOOK... BACK IN
THE OLD DAYS I
USED TO BODYGUARD
FOR MISTER FINN. I
KNOW THE JOINTS
HE AWAITS AT.

IF IT ISN'T
ONE PLACE,
IT'LL BE THE
OTHER!

DON'T YOU
WORRY, JAYNE.
WE'LL FIND
HIM...

I SURE
WON'T SO.



WOULDN'T
WANT TO
DISAPPOINT
MISTER
CRANSTON...



AND HOW WAS
YOUR STAY IN
ATLANTIC CITY,
YING KO...?



INTERESTING,
MY SONS... IT WAS
A DIFFERENTIATING
CHANGE FROM
THE LIFE OF
THE SHADOW.

THE CRANSTON
PERSONA APPEARS
HE MADE THANKS
TO THE LEGACY
LEFT BY MISTER
MORDECKA - THE
ORIGINAL LAMONT
CRANSTON - I FIND
MYSELF ONE OF
THE WORLD'S
WEALTHIEST MEN.

STILL,
WEALTH IS NOT
EVERYTHING,
MY SONS.

TO KNOW YOUR
ENEMY... TO
CHALLENGE HIM...
TO STALK HIM...

...TO FIND THE EVIL
WHERE IT BREEDS
AND FEEDS... TO
FETTER IT OUT...



...TO
EXTERMINATE IT
UTTERLY.



...THAT IS TRUE
EXPLANATION.

IF YOU TRULY
FEEL THAT WAY,
FATHER, YOU WOULD
BE HAPPY TO
TAKE THE
MONEY.

DEATH

INDEED,
FATHER.





GIN!

GLUG
GLUG
GLUG

CHRIST, DEWITT/
YOU HAVE TO DO THIS
EVERY TIME
YOU WIN A
HAND??

LEAVE HIM
ALONE, ELYON
WHAT ELSE
IS THERE
TO DO??

FRIGGLE,
MAWLE?

I MEAN, THE
MASTER LEAVES US
HOLD AND GIVE,
TAKING OFF FOR
GOD KNOWS
WHERE...

...THE
COMPUTERS DON'T
HAVE ANYTHING
TO SAY ABOUT
THE FINING...

- AND OUR
HATED HAND,
DICK MAGNET,
HASN'T GOT A
BLESSED THING
TO REPORT!



HEY'S RIGHT.
EIT, AIN'T NOTHING
LEFT TO DO BUT
ENJOY LIFE TO DA
FULLEST.

CARE TO
JOIN ME??



ONLY IF
YOU'VE GOT
A GLASS,
DEWITT.

GOD ONLY
KNOWS WHAT
DISEASES
YOU--

KNOCK KNOCK

NOW WHO??

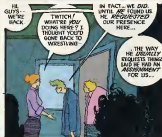


HE
GUYS--
WE'RE
BACK

TWITCH!
WHAT'RE YOU
DOING HERE? I
THOUGHT YOU'D
GONE BACK TO
WESTVING.

IN FACT... WE DID.
UNTIL WE FOUND US.
HE REQUESTED
OUR PRESENCE
HERE...

THE WAY
HE EXPLICITLY
REQUESTS THINGS,
SAID HE HAD AN
APPOINTMENT
FOR US...



SO... WHICH
ONE A YOU
TOLD HIM
WHERE WE
WERE...?

NOT ME!

NO WAY!

WELL, I THINK
GOD'S IN
OLTER ME?

WELL, I THINK
GOD'S IN
OLTER ME?



NO ONE TOLD ME,
BUT ENDOLYN.

I FIGURED
IT OUT
ALL BY
MYSELF...



AND...HEH...
WE'RE BOTH
GLAD YOU DID.
WALTER...

THE **ASSORT** OF THE
MARKETING CIRCUIT
WERE BECOMING A BIT
MUCH FOR US BOTH.
ISN'T THAT RIGHT,
DEAR?

MR. M. (GROUNDED)



SOME LIFE TIME
IS... I WANTED ACTION
AND ADVENTURE...
NOW I THINK I
SHOULD'VE JOINED
THE **ADVENTS**!

YEAR... TAVON YOU
GAVE AN ASSIGNMENT...
WHILE THE REST OF
US JUST SIT HERE
DOING NOTHING?



YES... WELL... I DO HAVE A JOB
FOR YOU, TAVON. ONE
THAT MAKES USE OF YOUR
PARTICULAR TALENTS

I WANT YOU TO REEXAMINE
YOUR CONTACTS IN THE
DRUG TRADE-- AND FIND
OUT WHAT YOU CAN ABOUT
PROCESSING PLANTS
IN THE CITY.

I'LL EXPECT A **FULL** STORY
BY TOMORROW EVENING.

MR. M.
(GROUNDED)



LEVEL WITH US, BOSS--
YOU GOT **JEROME**'S
BUNCH'A AGENTS
OUT HERE YOU AINT
TELLIN' US ABOUT

THE GUY,
'FOR INSTANCE,
HE WORKIN'
FOR YOU?



I MEAN,
I SAW YOU
LET 'IM GO
AFTER HE
WINKED A
WINKER...



...BUT HIS GUY'S
BAD NEWS-- AINT
SOMETHING DO FOR US
MUCH GOOD, WIT'
HIM. SHOOTIN' HIS
MOUTH OFF.

YOU ARE CORRECT,
DEWITT.
THIS "PUBLICITY"
IS A **PROBLEM**...

...AND WHILE I HARDLY ENCOURAGED
HIS FANTASIES, I BELIEVE I SHOULD
VISIT THIS... LARRY GROSS...

...AND RE-EDUCATE HIM...



THAT'S
IT? YOU'RE
LEAVING?
WHAT
ABOUT
ME?

DON'T YOU GET IT?
WE'RE **BORED**! WE
WANT SOMETHING TO
DO BESIDES WAIT FOR
REPORTS FROM SOME
WHACKO PRIVATE
INVESTIGATOR!



WHAT MAVS
AREWE,
MASTER--

--IS LATE IT
OR LOST IT,
BUSTER!



I SEE...

IN THAT CASE...

FROM OUT OF
THE SHADOWS
OF TIME, STEPS...

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ACTION!



INTRIGUE!







HEL,
BOYS..

MR. RV!

HELLO, PROFESSOR.
HOW HAVE THEY
BEEN TREATING
YOU...?

MY TEETH
ARE BAD...
VERY VERY BAD...
THEY ARE
ROTTING,
HERR BACH..

BUT,
I AM HAPPY
TO SAY, THE
BACTERIAL PUSSELLS
CONTINUE TO
FLOURISH

UHH..
NICE TO HEAR..

LEYLAND

AH..
STILL
DEAD,
I SEE

YES

LEYLAND?

WE
ARE MAKING
PROGRESS,
AREN'T WE...?

MARVIN..

DO YOU
HAVE A
CIGARETTE,
MISTER
BACH...?

MARVIN, WE
BOTH KNOW
YOU DON'T
SMOKE.

WELL,
THEN...
HOW ABOUT
JUST THE
SMELL--?

NOW,
ISN'T THAT
WHAT GOT YOU
HERE IN THE
FIRST PLACE--?

MISTER SKLAR--
YOU LOOK WELL
TODAY--

THEY
LOOK
FINE

AND MY
FRIENDS?

THEY
SHOULD
THEY'VE BEEN
WORKING
OUT.

I SEE..

AND LARRY?
TELL ME
HOW IS AND
THESE
DAYS?

HE
HASN'T CALLED
FOR A WHILE..
BUT
YOU NEVER
KNOW.

BRATTA
BRATTA
BRATTA

AH! AND
SPEAKING OF
CALLED..

I'D LIKE YOU ALL
TO MEET A COUPLE
OF FRIENDS
OF MINE..



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SO, THAT THEM,
SW? DON'T LOOK
SO TOUGH TO
ME--

THESE TYPES
SELDOM DO, ARTIE.
BUT I PERSONALLY
GUARANTEED THEIR
DANGER--
WHEN PROVOKED.

HOWEVER, IT
HARDLY SEEMS
YOU NEED THEM--
YOUR TROOPS
SEEM TO BE AS
BRAVE AS
THEY COME.

MAN, THEY'RE JUST YOUR
AVERAGE MILITARY-ADVISOR
TYPES... GOOD FOR PUTTING
DOWN A REVOLUTION OR
BLOWING UP AN EMBASSY.
BUT NOT MUCH
ELSE--

WELL, THEY'RE THOROUGH.
I'LL GIVE THEM THAT.
THEY SEEM TO HAVE
KILLED EVERY GUARD
IN THE FACILITY--



ANYWAY, LET'S
SEND THE TEAM
OUT HERE, TAKE
A GOOD LOOK
AT 'EM--

JACK--
RAY--?

RIGHT
ON IT,
SIR.

NOW, ARTIE,
THERE'S
ONE MATTER
WE'VE YET TO
DEAL WITH.
MY...UH...
INCORPORATION.

DON'T WORRY
ABOUT IT, HY--
YOU WON'T
FEEL A THING.
PROMISE--

SIR--
THERE'S
ANOTHER EXIT
BACK
HERE--

GREAT, RAY--NOW
JUST BRING OUR
NEW FILE
OVER HERE,
WOULDJA?



LISTEN NOW,
ALL OF YOU.
THIS MAN IS
ARTIE'S FINN.
HE IS OUR
FRIEND.

HE IS GOING TO
TAKE YOU AWAY
NOW. GO WITH HIM.
DO AS HE SAYS. I
WILL MEET UP
WITH YOU.

...AS...UH...
SOON AS I CAN.



OH, GOD,
LONNIE.
DID YOU SEE
THE WAY SHE
BY NOW SHE'S
DETICORATED?

AND WHEN I
TOLD HER ABOUT
LONNIE -- *GRIN* --
IT MAKES ME *GRIN*
JUST THINKING
ABOUT IT!

WHAT DID YOU
EXPECT, ARCH?
YOU OUGHTTA
BE USED TO
ARCH BY
NOW!

LOOK -- I
BROUGHT YOU
TO MY PLACE
TO FORGET
ALL THAT --

-- SO WHY
DON'T YOU
RELAX AND
HAVE SOME
FUN?

I GOT THE
PERFECT BARE
FOR YOU --
FORMER *WEST*
SWINGER TRON,
LEGS UP TO
MESE --

-- WELL,
SHE EVEN
PLAYS THE
FIDDLE!

NOW YOU JUST
GET YOURSELF
COMFORTABLE
AND I'LL
HAVE HER SENT
UP --

-- SHE
SHOULD BE
FINISHED WITH
COMMISSIONER
MAUX BY NOW.

DON'T WORRY,
LONNIE. MY HEART'S
NOT INTO IT TONIGHT.
AFTER WHAT I'VE
SEEN, I JUST DON'T
THINK I COULD
GET --

Brzzzb Brzzzb

YES,
GLADYS --
WHAT
IS IT?

SORREE TA
DETICOR YA,
MASTA FINN, BUT
DEY'S A COUPLE
DOWN HERE
WANTA SEXTA
BRODA.

-- SAY DEY CAME
ALLA WAYS FROM
NEW JOSEY
TA DELIVA A
PRESENT --

WELL...
CAN'T YOU
TELL THEM TO
JUST LEAVE IT,
WE'LL PICK IT
UP LATER --

-- SIGH --
WHO ARE THEY,
LONNIE...?

HANG ON
A SECOND,
ARCH --

GLADYS --
GIVE ME A
VISUAL ON
CAMERA TWO,
PLEASE --

HOUSE O'
BATES

I MENTIONED
ONE POSSIBILITY,
BUT DEY SAY DEY
GOTTA DELIVER
IT IN POISEN --

YOU
KNOW THEM,
ARCH...?

YEAH, SURE -- LOU
FESNICK AND JAYNE
WENT 'S-TO-N-NAME.
HE'S A LOCK AND PICK
MAN DOWN ON THE
BOARDWALK, WORKS
FOR ME NOW AND
THEN --

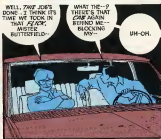
-- NICE GUY,
BUT
ABOUT AS
SHARP AS A
PILLOW --

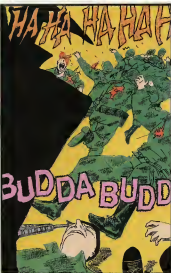
WANT TO
SEE
THEM...?

YOUR
RECEPTIONIST
SAID THEY HAD
A PREVIEW
FOR ME,
RIGHT?

WHAT THE HELL,
SEND 'EM UP.
MAYBE THEY BROUGHT
SOMETHING THAT'LL
CHEER ME UP --









NEXT: PRIME TIME

SHADOW MANIA

Dear DC:

In the first six months of the SHADOW you've presented so many classic, memorable scenes that I find myself recalling them in a cinematic fashion. I can see myself picking up this series in five years and still being hypnotized by Sienkiewicz's lush art, giggle over Heller's wry, dark wit, and remember how I felt as a child listening to the "Shadow" before bedtime on the radio. Mervellous. Incredible.

When will the trade paperback of "Shadows and Light" be coming out?

Mark Lucas
10558 Eastborne Ave. #4
Los Angeles, CA 90024

Trade paperback? Why, Mark, we hadn't even thought of that... anybody else out there want to see it for believe that we hadn't thought of it?

Dear Mike:

I personally liked the six-part "Shadows and Light" better than the four-part mini-series of two years ago. I like Sienkiewicz's art better than Chylen's, too, but that's comparing apples and oranges. I liked both just fine (the stories and the fruit).

When Miller left BATMAN, when Moore left SWAMP THING, they might have taken some of their fans with them to a certain extent... I feel a similar fate for the SHADOW. BILL'S has a large and loyal following and I hope Kyle Baker gets a fair shake.

Meanwhile, I chuckle at those who, through narrow-mindedness, are missing Rick Vitch's SWAMP THING (chuckle, chuckle), and, those who will miss Heller and Baker's SHADOW.

Charlie Harris
Tucson, AZ, USA

Funny, Charlie, we were *loving* the very *few* you speak of, and your final paragraph lets us know that we really have nothing to fear from the hip, comic book consumers out there. Thanks for the advance vote of confidence—how're we holding up?

Oh-oh, here comes one of the letters that made us afraid in the first place...

Dear Shadow People:

I just bought issue #6 of THE SHADOW and loved it. Especially liked the part when the Light was killed and everybody thought it was the Shadow.

I think it's going to take me a while to get used to the artist taking over with the inking of issue #7 and the complete art chores as of #8. But I like to think that if you trust him to do your artwork... he's probably okay.

Lastly, since the Question and the Shadow are similar in a non-superheroic way, is there any chance of a team-up?

Well, until next month, keep up the good work.

Josh Fitzpatrick
P.O. Box 1614
Duxbury, MA 02331

Just how much did you like the part where the Light got killed, Josh? Careful with your answer, all of Duxbury is watching.

Dear Mike:

Has Bill ever been asked to do a James Bond movie poster? The cover to SHADOW #6 was so Bond, it was scary. By the way, if you expect me to continue to buy this comic when Kyle Baker takes over, you're dead in the head!

Delmo (The Saint) Walters
Bronx, NY 10452

Now you know why we were worried. We're banking on *the* Charles outnumbering the Delmo.

P.S. They let guys with mouths like that become saints?

Dear DC:

I have been a comics fan for nearly 20 years. And out of all those years nothing much inspired me to write simply because I was pretty satisfied with what the artists and writers came up with. Until now.

You see, the Shadow has always been one of my favorite characters. I was exposed to him in Jim Steranko's "History of Comics" Volume 1 (the Bloody Pulp). Having tired of conventional super-heroes by that time, the long excerpts Jim had included in his text from the Shadow pulps caused me to be excited. I loved it! As luck would have it, this was around the time Pyramid Books issued their paperback series—and for the next three years I scrambled to buy every book they put out (and some of Bantam's, too).

I was a Shadow fanatic! You're thinking, "Oh, no! He's about to criticize us for what we've done to the Shadow!"

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You are dead wrong!

I also bought DC's SHADOW comics in the early seventies and I liked them, mostly the one's Mike Kaluta did with Denny O'Neill, and I was very disappointed when it was cancelled!

I thought, "Well, that's it then."

But ten years later I see the familiar SHADOW logo staring out at me... and I flip!

Sienkiewicz! I know him! He did Moon Knight (who always reminded me of the Shadow and Batman)!

I bought the book with the logo and two days later I buy three more, and I read them all over again—and I love it again!

See, I always suspected the first DC version of this title failed because it was set in the thirties—the character desperately needed to be updated.

Well—the covers! Bill, you paint them? The cover of SHADOW #4—when I saw it, I was awestruck! Reminded me a lot of some of the pulp covers I've seen reprinted, yet yours still had that eighties style—know what I mean?

And the writing! In this incarnation of the SHADOW! The new agents! I love Twitch, Max and Joe Cardona, the characters make this series outstanding. And dare I say that these characters are not overshadowing their master one bit!

Please try to keep one of those great action sequences in every upcoming issue—I never got tired of the stuff. And keep bringing back those old villains... I was never fortunate enough to catch a novel with Shwan Kahn in it, but the way you introduced him was outrageous! Any hope of getting the Wasp in your book?

Well, guys, hope this letter wasn't too long—I really tried to offer some criticism with my praise, but basically I have no gripes with what you're doing. Thanks again for getting me re-accustomed about comics and pleasing a Number One Shadow Fan at the same time.

Jeff Haskett
246 South 4th, Apt. B
Richmond, IN 47374

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